

REMARKS

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee.

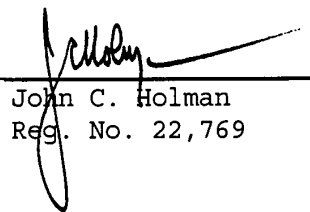
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

3. (amended) Method, as set forth in claim 1 ~~claims 1 and 2~~, characterized in, that a set of arguments are formed by values of cantilever's deviation force and/or coordinate of its fixed end and/or derivatives from cantilever's deviation force of coordinate of its fixed end at least in points of control; determination of parameters is carried out by forming a set functions, using received arguments and determination of their values.

4. (amended) Method, as set forth in claim 1 ~~claims 1-3~~, characterized in, that points, limiting quasi-rectilinear portions of force curve, and/or points, where force curve shifts slope jumpy, are chosen as points of control.

5. (amended) Method, as set forth in claim 1 ~~claims 1-3~~, characterized in, that points, where coordinate of fixed end of cantilever and/or force of its deviation and/or its first or second derivatives according to coordinate of fixed cantilever's end, achieve threshold values, received, e.g., using results of previous scanning or measurement are chosen as points of control.

6. (amended) Method, as set forth in claim 1 ~~claims 1-5~~, characterized in, that construction of space distributions is carried out concerning coordinate of sample's surface.

8. (amended) Method, as set forth in claim 1 ~~claims 1-3~~, characterized in, that determination of parameters, using noted values of cantilever's deviation force and/or coordinates of its fixed end and/or derivatives of cantilever's deviation force of coordinate of its fixed end in a predetermined subset of points of control is carried out, taking into consideration values of indicated magnitudes in other subsets of points of control.

17. (amended) Method, as set forth in claim 14 ~~claims 14-16~~, characterized in, that coordinates of limits of surface layers of sample (measured within approach or move apart), are determined relative to coordinate of surface, which is measured also within move apart or approach accordingly.